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REGION 1 FIT/EPA CORRESPONDENCE

C-583-12-8-112

TO: DON SMITH/EPA

FROM: GAIL KUNTZ

SUBJECT: FINAL PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT MEMO
EDMUNDS MANUFACTURING
FARMINGTON, CT
TDD No. FI-8807-04
Reference No. \$375CTQ3PA
CERCLIS NO. CTD054187455

DATE: DECEMBER 27, 1988

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INTRODUCTION

The NUS Corporation Field Investigation Team (NUS/FIT) was requested by the Region I U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide a memorandum indicating the National Priorities List (NPL) eligibility of Edmunds Manufacturing in Farmington, Connecticut. This Preliminary Assessment memo was prepared under Technical Directive Document (TDD) Number FI-8807-04, issued in July, 1988. Tasks included a state file search, document review, an perimeter survey of the facility. This memo has been reviewed by both the EPA and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

Edmunds Manufacturing is located on Spring Lane in the Farmington Industrial Park, Farmington, Connecticut (Figures 1 and 2). The company is owned and operated by Robert F. Edmunds (President) and has been in operation at this location since 1966 (CT DEP, 1983).

The facility lies in the Farmington River Valley and is bounded on the north by Mallory, Co., the east by Connecticut Spring Company, the south by New England Aircraft, and the west by Dell Manufacturing. The surrounding area is both industrial and residential (Figures 1, 2, and 3) (USGS 1984a; 1984b).

Edmunds Manufacturing has operated at this location for 22 years, manufacturing gauges for commercial and industrial use (CT DEP, 1980a). Manufacturing processes involve machining, bright dipping (chromium) and nickel plating, black oxide finishing and degreasing. Resulting wastes include trichloroethylene, water soluble oils, metal salts and plating rinsewater (CT DEP, 1980a; 1985a).

From 1966 until 1980, Edmunds Manufacturing discharged untreated rinsewater from bright dipping, nickel plating and black oxide (caustic soda) finishing to a dry well (CT DEP, 1980a; 1980b). As a result of a 1980 Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) inspection, Edmunds Manufacturing was ordered to eliminate the discharge to the groundwater and fined one-thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) (CT DEP, 1980c; 1981). Responding to this, Edmunds Manufacturing installed a 4000 gallon fiberglass in-ground holding tank for chromium plating rinsewater and hired a licensed water hauler for waste



BASE MAP IS A PORTION OF THE FOLLOWING 7.5' U.S.G.S QUADRANGLE(S):
BRISTOL, CT 1966, PHOTOREVISED 1984
~~NEW BRITAIN, CT 1966, PHOTOREVISED 1984~~



CONNECTICUT

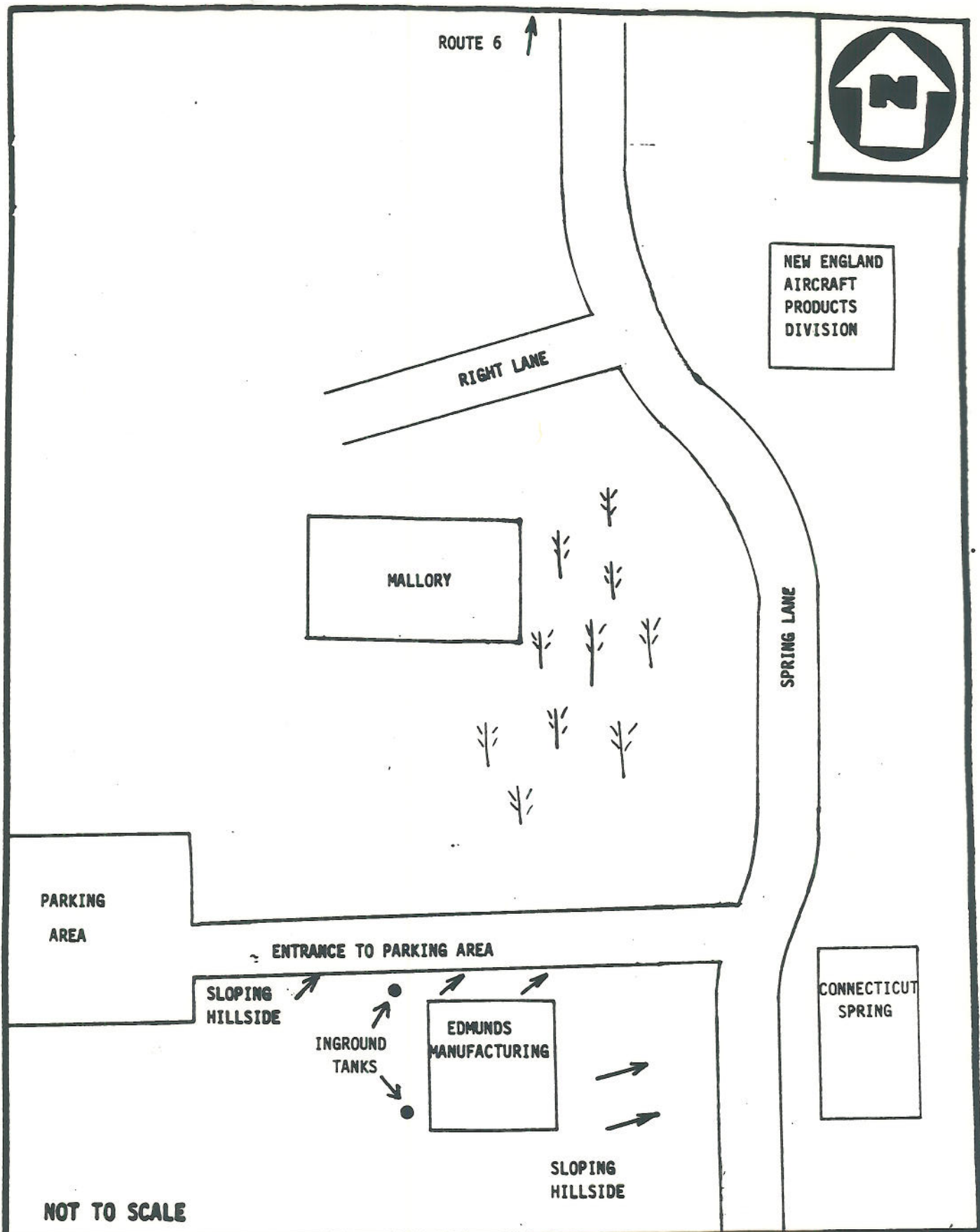
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

LOCATION MAP

**EDMUNDS MANUFACTURING
FARMINGTON, CT**



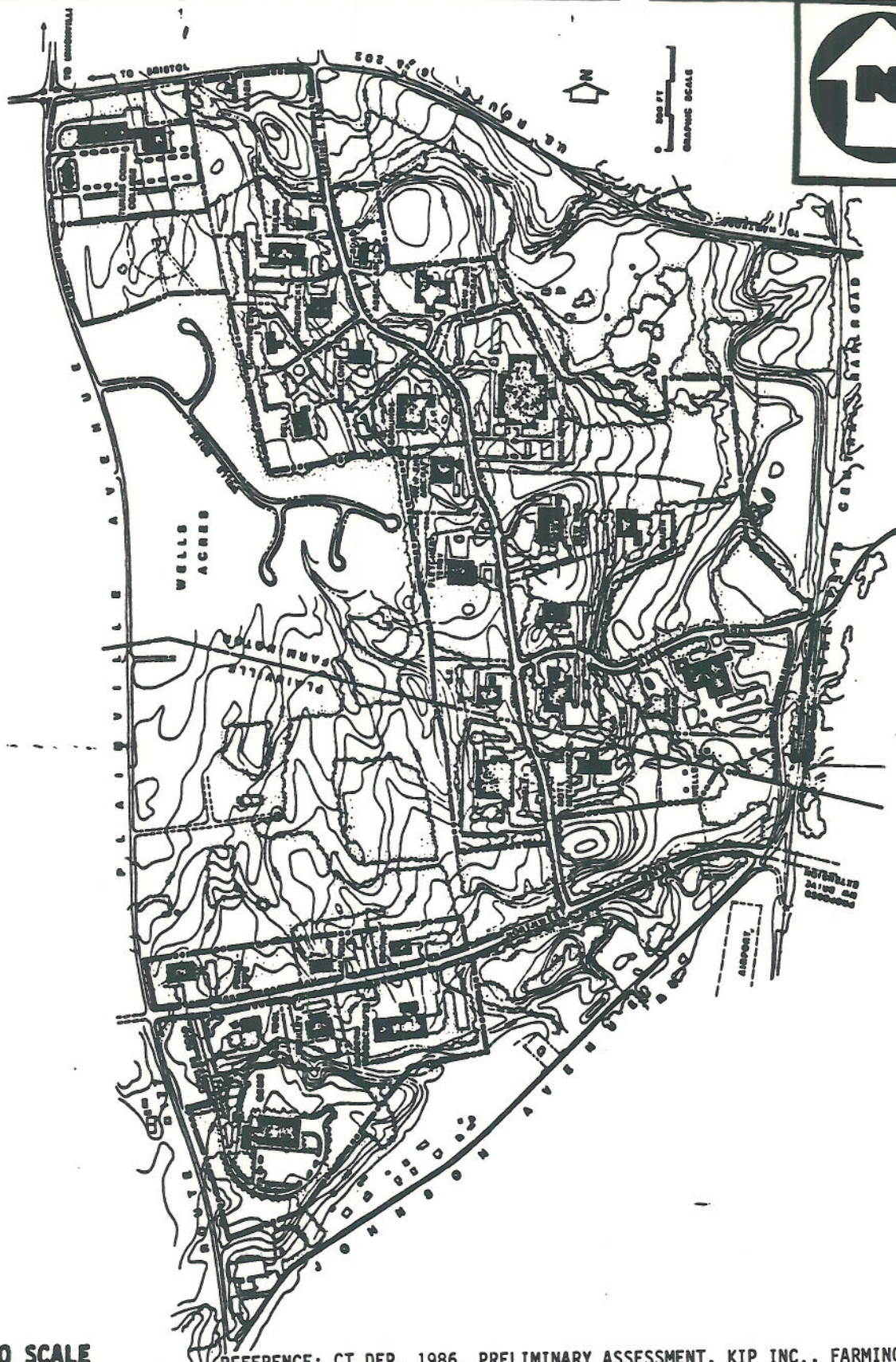
FIGURE 1



SITE SKETCH
EDMUNDS MANUFACTURING
FARMINGTON, CT



FIGURE 2



NOT TO SCALE

REFERENCE: CT DEP. 1986. PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT, KIP INC., FARMINGTON, CT.

LOCATION MAP

FARMINGTON-PLAINVILLE INDUSTRIAL PARK



FIGURE 3

MEMO TO: D. SMITH/EPA

transport. Nickel plating operations were eliminated in 1980 and the dry well was reportedly excavated in the summer of 1980 (CT DEP, 1980d; 1985a; 1985b). Black oxide finishing rinses were permitted to the municipal sanitary sewer system and non-contact cooling water discharges were permitted (NPDES # CT0023531) to the Scott Swamp Brook (CT DEP, 1980d; US EPA, 1988). Water-soluble oil waste is stored in a 2500 gallon in ground holding tank prior to removal and trichloroethylene is drummed for reclamation by the supplier (CT DEP, 1980a).

Edmunds Manufacturing was operating as a non-notifying generator and was observed using a false EPA Identification Number by a CT DEP RCRA inspector in 1985 (CT DEP, 1985b). Edmunds Manufacturing notified EPA as a generator on March 4, 1985 (US EPA, 1988). The facility was issued a NPDES permit (US EPA, 1988).

The Town of Farmington and environs are supplied by surface and groundwater sources from four water companies: Unionville Water company of Unionville, Connecticut; Plainville Water Company of Plainville, Connecticut; New Britain Water Company of New Britain, Connecticut; and the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) of Hartford, Connecticut (Silverman, 1987).

Farmington surface water sources include the Farmington River, located 2.0 miles northeast of the facility; the Farmington Reservoir, located 2.25 miles northeast of the facility atop Farmington Mountain; and an MDC supply source from the Nepaug and Barkhamstead Reservoirs located approximately 10-20 miles northwest of the facility (CT DEP 1982). It is unknown if the Farmington River is a potential contaminant pathway from the property to an intake. Distance and elevation presumably prevent the MDC supply and the Farmington Reservoir from being potential contaminant pathways to intakes. The MDC supply serves approximately 6.5% of the population of Farmington (CT DEP, 1986a). It is unknown how many Farmington residents are served by the Farmington Reservoir and the Farmington River.

There are several groundwater supply wells located within a 1 mile radius of the Edmunds Manufacturing facility (Figure 1). These include the two Johnson Avenue Wells, located 0.45 miles south of the facility and owned by the Plainville Water Company, serving virtually all of Plainville's residents and a few of Farmington's residents (Jalkut, 1988a); the four Farmington Industrial Park (FIP) Wells, located 0.6 miles southeast of the facility and owned and operated by Fischer Enterprises of Cheshire, Connecticut, serving Tunxis Community College and seventeen Commercial Businesses in the park (Jalkut, 1988d); and the Wells Acres Development Well, located 0.4 miles northwest of the facility and owned by the Unionville Water Company and serving an unknown number of Farmington Residents (Jalkut, 1988c). Within the 1 and 3 mile radii of the facility, there are an additional 18 groundwater supply wells (Sternburg, 1984). It is unknown how many people these wells serve. Private wells serve approximately 4,300 town resident, representing 23% of the total Farmington population (CT DEP, 1986a). The closest known private well is on the property of the Connecticut Spring Co., a commercial operation in the Farmington Industrial Park located 500 feet east of the Edmunds Manufacturing facility (Jalkut, 1988f).

The Plainville Water Company Wells on Johnson Avenue and the FIP Wells were found to be contaminated in June 1975. The State of Connecticut Department of Health Laboratory Reports indicate that chloroform, tetrachloroethylene, and trichloroethylene have been detected (CT DEP, 1986). The FIP Wells were pumped to waste and put back in service within six months. They are currently in use and monitored monthly with no levels of volatiles reportedly exceeding the present maximum contaminant levels (Kuntz, 1988a). Johnson Avenue Well #3 was pumped to waste for 2 1/2 years, during which time a newly

MEMO TO: D. SMITH/EPA

installed Well #6 was used. Both wells are currently in use and are regularly monitored with no levels of volatiles exceeding the present maximum contaminant levels. However, the Superintendent of the Plainville Water Company did explain that the volatile levels will exceed the maximum contaminant levels when they are lowered in January 1989. Further remediation, possibly air stripping, is currently being engineered (Kuntz, 1988b).

In November 1982, thirteen companies (including Edmunds Manufacturing) were notified by the CT DEP to conduct a groundwater study. This study was never conducted (CT DEP, 1986b).

No onsite sampling has been conducted at the Edmunds Manufacturing facility.

CONCLUSION

Edmunds Manufacturing has been in operation at the current location for 22 years. Although current waste handling practices are permitted and in compliance with RCRA Generator requirements, disposal practices prior to 1980 are of concern. For 14 years, untreated rinse water from metal finishing operations was discharged to a dry well.

No onsite sampling has been conducted at this facility; however, the CT DEP is investigating groundwater contamination associated with the Johnson Avenue and the FIP Wells. Due to the past history (pre-1980) of waste disposal practices, and considering the waste of concern NUS/FIT recommends that Edmunds Manufacturing be considered NPL eligible. Furthermore, NUS/FIT recommends that a Screening Site Inspection be conducted at a high priority.

Approval:


Joanne O. Morin
FIT Office Manager

GK/kk

cc: D.Pernice/EPA (2 copies)
M. Blais/CT DEP (2 copies)
J. Sweitzer (cover only)
J. Morin (cover only)

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